

Governor's Family Violence Council Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Jeanne Yeager, Chair
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair
Lillian Agbeyegbe
Heather Amador for V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed
Maisha DouyonCover for Secretary Robert Neall
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.
Lt. Diane Hansen for Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill
Lisae Jordan, Esq. for Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Dr. Pamela Love Manning
John McGinnis for Secretary Karen Salmon
Marcia Morris for Secretary Lourdes Padilla
Lisa Nitsch
Manuel Ruiz
Laure Ruth, Esq.
David Shultie
Anne Weatherholt
Carrie Williams, Esq. for Attorney General Brian Frosh

Guests:

Andrea Carroll, Nancy Chernoff, Jacqueline Gray, Eileen King, Jennifer Leggour, Kelly Likely, Denise McCain, Michelle Medlock, Mark Pennington, Jayhoun Rezai, Amanda Rodriguez, Melanie Shapiro, Jessica Trease, Kimberly Waibogha, Paulette Williams-Tillery

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Mary Abraham, Rebecca Allyn, Kimberly Herndon, Erica Hiner, Justice Schisler

I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

II. VOCA Listening Session

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-recipients were invited to the meeting to share grant information with providers, and hear from providers in order to aid in the development of a viable strategy to meet the needs of the crime victims. Questions were posed to sub-recipients to get a better understanding of the needs of victims. Sub-recipients were in support of prioritizing

undin for direct service rather than referral organizations. Sub-recipients shared that victims have more frequently reported experiencing technology abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 2021 Council meeting were provided to members and guests. Ms. Lennig made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Allyn introduced two newly appointed members: Dr. Pamela Manning, and Jennifer Pollitt-Hill, Executive Director of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

IV. Workgroup Updates

a. Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy

The workgroup in March and members reviewed the 2018 and 2019 recommendations of the Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Committee. The workgroup is interested in working with the Maryland Department of Health to update an IPV and pregnancy resource sheet that is outdated. Members also discussed conducting a social media campaign in October, which is domestic violence awareness month, and pregnancy and infant loss awareness month.

b. Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases

Ms. Lennig and Ms. Allyn met with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to discuss options for fingerprinting oversight. The workgroup will regroup after the legislative session.

c. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification Review Process

The AIP certification application will be posted by the end of April, and due June 4. Members will assist with reviewing applications.

The Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County (FCC) has been accepting AIP clients and referrals from TurnAround for a few months, and FCC may continue to do so for the near future. TurnAround is due to recertify this year, but since they are not providing any AIP services at the moment, they asked if they should recertify this year. Council members were in agreement that TurnAround should apply and maintain certification if they plan to resume AIP services within this year or the next.*

Members discussed the continuation of abuse intervention programming occurring virtually and that at this time the Council will not take a stance on if groups should resume in person, but that programs must notify the Council of long wait lists for groups, and if services are suspended for any reason.

There are six AIPs that require site visits in 2021. The Workgroup plans to conduct site visits during the summer.

V. Legislative Updates

Ms. Lennig provided members with an update on the legislative session and domestic violence related bills.

- HB 514/SB 413 - Maryland Legal Services Corporation – Abandoned Property – The Council submitted a letter of support. This bill increases the amount that the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) gets from the state’s abandoned property fund from \$2,000,000 to \$8,000,000. MLSC provides funding to low income legal service providers in Maryland, including several programs providing representation to survivors of domestic violence. PASSED
- HB 147/SB 250 - Criminal Law–Sexual Crimes–Repeal of Spousal Defense – The Council submitted a letter of support. This bill would have repealed the prohibition on prosecuting a person for rape or certain sexual offenses against a victim who is the person’s legal spouse. Under current law, a person can only be prosecuted for raping their spouse under certain circumstances. Passed in the House and amended by the Senate; Conference committee could not come to an agreement
- HB 744 - Courts – Counsel Appearance Fees – Domestic Violence- This bill prohibits the clerk of a circuit court from collecting fees for docketing the appearance of a petitioner's counsel and respondent’s counsel in protective order cases. PASSED
- HB 18/SB 154 - Landlord and Tenant – Eviction Action – Right to Counsel- This bill was amended to create an access to counsel for low income tenants under circumstances. It requires MLSC to help connect tenants with legal counsel in eviction cases. In addition, it requires landlords to provide notice to a tenant before filing for eviction and gives the tenant 10 days to pay the rent. Because HB 31 did not pass, there is no source of funding for the program. PASSED
- HB 39/SB 581 - Action for Change of Name - Waiver of Publication Requirement – This bill requires the court to waive the publication requirement in an action for change of name under the Maryland Rules on motion by an individual who has filed the action. PASSED
- HB 193/SB 484 - Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Private Room – This bill requires law enforcement agencies to, upon request, provide a private room to a victim of a rape or sexual offense for reporting the crime. PASSED
- HB 289/SB 105 – Peace Order – Workplace Violence – This bill allows an employer to get a peace order on behalf of an employee for an act of abuse that occurred at the workplace, so long as the employee does not have the kind of relationship with the abuser that would allow her/him to get a protective order against the abuser. PASSED

VI. Old/New Business

Ms. Allyn shared court form [MDJ-008](#) with members. The form must be completed with the Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form (CVNRF) in order to have a victim's information shielded. When filing with the CVNRF, “other” should be checked on form MDJ-008 and CVNRF written on the line. The Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association is working to inform advocates and state’s attorney’s offices of the new form and procedures for filing.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (the Office) and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services (the Board) are sponsoring the 31st Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families on Sunday, April 18. The virtual regional memorial services will be hosted by the Baltimore City, Charles, Dorchester, and Frederick County State's Attorneys' Offices. Information on the services can be found at

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/2021memorials/>.

The Office and the Board will also be hosting the virtual 2021 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference on April 19-22 through Whova, an online event manager, and Zoom. More information on the conference can be found at https://whova.com/web/amcivr_202004/.

Ms. Nitsch provided an update on the AIP training hosted by House of Ruth in which 48 people attended the virtual training.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Ruth made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Agbeyegbe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m.

*Following the meeting, Ms. Allyn met with TurnAround staff and they are resuming their AIP services and will be applying to maintain AIP certification.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/nwi-qgve-ovv

Conference Line: 620-392-0330

PIN: 440 190 727#